(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) is delaying the completion of Paradeep Oil Refinery; and

(b) what is the total Budget Estimate funds already utilised and the time-frame to complete the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Paradip Refinery Project is progressing as per the revised schedule.

(b) As on 30.11.2008, an amount of Rs.1461.21 crore has been spent on the Paradip Refinery Project. The Paradip Refinery Project is scheduled to be completed by July, 2012.

CNG retail outlet in Assam

2441. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the automobile users of Assam are consuming Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) for their vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any proposal for starting Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) retail outlets in Assam;

(d) if so, by when it will be started; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At present, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) is operating four auto LPG dispensing stations (ALDS) in the State of Assam at Guwahati (2 Nos), Tinsukia (1 No.) and Jorhat (1 No.).

Government have permitted the sale of auto-LPG for vehicles*vide* Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of use in Motor Vehicle) Order, 2001. As per the Control Order, only imported or import-substituted auto LPG can be used in vehicles.

(c) to (e) As of now, there is no Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) station in any city of Assam. In order to promote investment from public as well as private sector for laying trunk natural gas pipelines and city/local natural gas distribution networks throughout the country, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks'. Providing of CNG facilities depends upon availability of gas, setting up necessary infrastructure and economic viability.

New LPG connections

2442. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: